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Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance: strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations

Letter dated 7 August 2001 from the Permanent Representative of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to request that the letter addressed to you by H.E. Dr. Mustafa Osman Ismail, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Sudan, on 11 June 2001 (see annex), be circulated as a document of the fifty-six session of the General Assembly, under item 20 (a) of the provisional agenda, "Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations".

(*Signed*) Elfatih **Erwa**
Permanent Representative

* A/56/150.

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Annex to the letter dated 7 August 2001 from the Permanent Representative of the Sudan addressed to the Secretary-General

I write in reference to the previous communications from my Government addressed to you, regarding the decision to suspend aerial bombardments against the forces of the rebel movement the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army (SPLM/A) in the areas of military operation in southern Sudan.

You may recall that my Government took that positive step in response to the request made by the international humanitarian and relief organizations working in the aforementioned areas, on the one hand, and to provide a conducive environment for the Intergovernmental Authority for Development (IGAD) summit peace talks on the Sudan, on the other.

I am pleased to inform you that the above-mentioned IGAD summit took place in Nairobi, 2 June 2001, under the Chairmanship of President Daniel Arap Moi of Kenya, and with the participation of other Heads of State and Government, among them President Omer Hassan Ahmed AlBashir, President of the Republic of the Sudan.

During the summit, there was a general consensus of the urgent need for the implementation of an immediate ceasefire in the areas of military operation in southern Sudan in order to accelerate the flow of humanitarian assistance to the needy civilian population in those areas, and to facilitate for constructive negotiations between the Government and the rebel movement (SPLM/A), with the ultimate aim of reaching a peaceful resolution of the conflict in the south. However, it is now well known that SPLM/A, continuing its intransigent stance, not only vehemently opposed the proposed immediate ceasefire, but also provoked the situation by launching intensive military operations in western Bahr-El-Ghazal state, causing the loss of the lives of a considerable number of innocent civilians and the displacement of thousands of others, thus creating, once again, a humanitarian crisis in the state and its immediate environs, as it did in early 1998.

Furthermore, the rebel movement (SPLM/A), intoxicated by its military operations in western Bahr-El-Ghazal state and the aggravated humanitarian situation as a result of its military operations, has made it clear that, within its plans, it does not contemplate implementing an immediate ceasefire, but rather continuing its military operations and hostilities with the purpose of trying to engulf the states of Kordofan and Darfur in western Sudan.

My Government has no doubt that an escalation of military operations anywhere in the country constitutes a serious threat to its peace and stability and puts the civilian population as well as the humanitarian and relief workers in the war-affected areas at risk. My Government's continued call for a comprehensive ceasefire in the war-affected areas in the south will obviously, if implemented, alleviate the suffering of the civilian population in those areas and provide a conducive atmosphere for a peaceful settlement of the conflict.

In light of the above, the Government of the Republic of the Sudan strongly feels that, in order to avoid more suffering of the civilian population in the war-affected areas in the south, and in order to provide a conducive environment for a comprehensive peaceful resolution of the conflict thereto, the international community, especially the United Nations, is called upon to condemn the ongoing aggression by the rebel movement (SPLM/A) against the Sudanese people in general, and the people in the south in particular, and to exert pressure on the rebel movement to accept an immediate ceasefire in southern Sudan.

(*Signed*) Mustafa Osman **Ismail**
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Sudan